ITEM   7.1   DECISION

TOPIC   Dolliver State Park, Webster County -- Kevin C. and Lucile A. Stumpf
                Revocable Trust

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to accept the donation of a permanent flowage easement and temporary access easement on land adjacent to Dolliver State Park in Webster County. This easement shall serve to contain, on a short term basis, water from a control structure on the adjoining State owned land to the east. The flowage easement reflects an area of approximately .3-acres. The Stumpf Trust offers the donation of this easement.

Dan Kinsinger facilitated this easement.

A water control structure will be constructed on State property east of the Stumpf property. On an infrequent basis, there is the potential for water to back up on the Stumpf property once the water control structure is in place. During those times, the water will be held only until the control structure returns to its normal holding capacity. The easement area primarily involves tillable land.

The temporary access easement will allow the contractor access to the State land for construction of the water control terrace. Access will be allowed only after the 2008 crop has been harvested, with the exact route to be determined by the landowners.

No surveying costs are anticipated. The Department is responsible for replacement of any fencing removed during the construction phase of the project. In the event that there were future need for additional fencing, it will be at the expense of the Department. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Linda Hanson, Administrator
Management Services Division
August 14, 2008

ITEM   7.2   DECISION

TOPIC   Bluffton Fir Stand State Preserve, Winneshiek County --The Lucille White
                     Estate

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a parcel of land located in Winneshiek County. The Lucille White Estate (11 individuals) offer the 85.5-acre parcel for the appraised value of $427,500. DNR-owned land, known as the Bluffton Fir Stand State Preserve, is located immediately south of the property. Adjacent to the north is the Winneshiek County owned land known as the Bluffton Bluffs Area.
Licensed Appraiser, Brian Linnemeyer, of Indianola, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Travis Baker negotiated the purchase agreement.

The property is an irregular shaped parcel with access from a gravel-based county road that runs along the south edge of the property. The property is a mix of tillable and non-tillable land. The tillable land, 45.86 acres, is described as second bottomland. Only a small portion of the tillable land is subject to flooding from the Upper Iowa River, which runs through and along the property. The balance of the land is a mix of upland hardwood timber that includes rock bluffs along the river edge making it one of the more scenic areas in the Upper Iowa River corridor. Also included with the property is a building site with an old (1903) home dwelling and other miscellaneous outbuildings.

This acquisition provides an excellent opportunity for re-forestation of floodplains and conversion of cropland to prairie. Maderate bluffs associated with this tract are likely locations for endangered snails. The Conservation and Recreation Division will manage the property in accord with the area management plan.

Funding used for this acquisition will be Federal Pittman/Robertson Wildlife Restoration ($149,000), Wildlife Habitat Stamp ($127,500), the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation ($71,000), and REAP Protected Waters Areas ($80,000) (Capital Link #6). The INHF will be directing a portion of private contributions to its *Campaign for The Bluffs, The Hills, The Lakes* into this project. The property will remain on the Winneshiek County property tax rolls. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Attachment

Linda Hanson, Administrator
Management Services Division
August 14, 2008